	Case 1:22-cv-00977-JLS Docu	ment 1 Filed 12	FILED	GE T OI	17	
	ED STATES DISTRICT COURT ERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	MAD	EC 16 2022	R	evised 07/07 WDNY	
		WESTER	LOEWENGUTH CON DISTRICT CO	FNY	/	
	Elizabeth Breton		l Demanded	l: Yes	No	
	Name(s) of Plaintiff or Plaintiffs		22	CV	977-5	LS
	-VS-	DIS		TION C V-	OMPLAINT	
	Safran					
	Name of Defendant or Defendants					
(EEOC a copy so may	could attach a copy of your original EdC) complaint , a copy of the Equal Employ of the " Right to Sue " letter you received delay your case. Only those grounds raised in the character commission can be considered by the employment discrimination statutes.	ployment Opportured from the EEO age filed with the E	nity Commi C to this con Equal Emplo	ssion dec mplaint. syment O	eision, AND Failure to do	
This ac apply):	etion is brought for discrimination in en	nployment pursua	ant to <i>(check</i>	only tho.	se that	
<u>X</u>	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 19 (amended in 1972, 1978 and by the Color, gender, religion, national origin NOTE : In order to bring suit VII, you must first obtain a <u>r</u> Employment Opportunity Con	vil Rights Act of). In federal district of Ight to sue letter	1991, Pub.L	.No. 102 Title		
	Age Discrimination in Employment A (amended in 1984, 1990, and by the A 1986, Pub.L.No. 99-592, the Civil Rig NOTE: In order to bring suit Discrimination in Employmen Equal Employment Opportunic	ge Discrimination thts Act of 1991, I in federal district of Act, you must fi	n in Employi Pub.L.No. 10 court under	ment Am 02-166). the Age	endments of	
	Americans with Disabilities Act of 19 (amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1 NOTE: In order to bring suit with Disabilities Act, you must Equal Employment Opportunity	991, Pub.L.No. 10 in federal district o t first obtain a <u>ri</u>	02-166). court under	the Ame	ricans	

JURISDICTION is specifically conferred upon this United States District Court by the aforementioned statutes, as well as 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343. Jurisdiction may also be appropriate under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985(3), as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Pub.L.No. 102-166, and any related claims under New York law.

In addition to the federal claims indicated above, you may wish to include New York State

New York State Human Rights Law, N.Y. Exec. Law §§ 290 to 297 (age, race,

claims, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

,	creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status).					
PAR	TIES					
1.	My address is: 3/89 Broadway Rd Lot 8 Alexander, N/2 14005					
	My telephone number is: (7/6) 961 - 3354					
2.	The name of the employer(s), labor organization, employment agency, apprenticeship committee, state or local government agency who I believe discriminated against me is/are as follows:					
	Name: Sufran					
	Number of employees:					
	Address: 225 grie St. Lanca 3 Fer NY 14086					
	·					
3.	(If different than the above), the name and/or the address of the defendant with whom I sought employment, was employed by, received my paycheck from or whom I believed also controlled the terms and conditions under which I were paid or worked. (For example, you worked for a subsidiary of a larger company and that larger company set personnel policies and issued you your paycheck).					
	Name:					
	Address:					
CLA	IMS					
4.	I was first employed by the defendant on (date):					

I believe that the defendant(s) a. Are still committing these acts against me. b. Are not still committing these acts against me. (Complete this next item only if you checked "b" above) The last discriminatory act against me occurred on (date) (Complete this section only if you filed a complaint with the New York State Division Human Rights) The date when I filed a complaint with the New York State Division of Human Right (estimate the date, if necessary) I filed that complaint in (identify the city and state): The Complaint Number was: The New York State Human Rights Commission did /did not issue a decision. (NOTE: If it did issue a decision, you must attach one copy of the decision to each copy of the complaint; failure to do so will delay the initiation of you case.) The date (if necessary, estimate the date as accurately as possible) I filed charges with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regarding defendant's alleged discriminatory conduct is: The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission did /did not /did not	As nearly as did):	possible, the date(s) when subsequent acts of discrimination occurred (if Nov. 16th 2021, Nov. 22nd 2021
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did issue a Right to Sue letter, you <u>must</u> attach one copy of the decision to <u>each</u> copy of the complaint; failure to do so will delay the initiation of your case.)

13.	I am complaining in this action of the following types of actions by the defendants:						
	a	Failure to provide me with r					
	b	Failure to employ me					
	c	Termination of my employment Failure to promote me					
	d						
	e	Failure to provide me with rethe essential functions of my	easonable accommodations so I can perform y job				
	f	Harassment on the basis of a	my sex				
	g	Harassment on the basis of temployment	inequal terms and conditions of my				
h Retaliation because I complained about discrimination or harassmen directed toward me							
	i	Retaliation because I comple directed toward others	ained about discrimination or harassment				
	j	coerced, kel	perated from work force				
14.	Defendant's c that apply):	onduct is discriminatory with	respect to which of the following (check all				
	a R	Race	f Sexual Harassment				
	b C	Color	g Age Date of birth				
	c S	ex					
	d. X	Religion	h Disability Are you incorrectly perceived as being				
	e National Origin		disabled by your employer? yes no				
15.	I believe that defendant(s).	I was/was not	intentionally discriminated against by the				

		. /
	16.	I believe that the defendant(s) is/are is not/are not still committing these acts
		against me. (If you answer is that the acts are not still being committed, state when: and why the defendant(s) stopped committing these acts against
		you: and why the defendant(s) stopped committing these acts against
	17.	A copy of the charge to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is attached to this complaint and is submitted as a brief statement of the facts of my claim. (NOTE: You must attach a copy of the original complaint you filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a copy of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission affidavit to this complaint; failure to do so will delay initiation of your case.)
	18.	The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (check and):
	10.	The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (check one): has not issued a Right to sue letter
		has issued a Right to sue letter, which I received on 9.27.22
	19.	State here as briefly as possible the <i>facts</i> of your case. Describe how each defendant is
	17.	involved, including <i>dates</i> and <i>places</i> . Do not give any legal arguments or cite any cases
		or statutes. If you intend to allege a number of related claims, number and set forth each
		claim in a separate paragraph. (Use as much space as you need. Attach extra sheets if
04000	. 4 . 4 . 4	necessary.) Nov 2021 & notified Safran that the new policies, tocols, & requirements they were implementing on their employees went
manist v	23, p10	ncerely-held individual religions beliefs. Since then I have been treated
different	My S	was bullied why write ups & a suspension. Dec 1st 2021 & felt threatened
		I waited for me outside the bathroom demanding me to violate my beliefs.
Union Pres	olent.	I VP gave me choice to violate my beliefs or go home. My God has demanded
me NOT to	allon	I amy other Gods before me, Dan NOT allowed anyone or anybody,
institution	M 2	arth to come between me & My God. Feeling as if they were toying to do so,
		able to televate the havassment D went home, this resulted in feeling
a crown and	ofine	A a rose all of that alocusion & filed complaint with EEUC. I stell it to be
discrimina	Hory	& retaliatory actions. Nov 2022 A recieved letter of termination for being
unable to	agree	& retaliatory actions. Nov 2022 A recieved letter of termination for being to another possible unpaid leave. I have given Safran adequate notice of & have exhausted all other available remedies.
their viol	itims	& nave exhausted all other available remedies.
	FORI	LITIGANTS ALLEGING AGE DISCRIMINATION
	20.	Since filing my charge of age discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity
		Commission regarding defendant's alleged discriminatory conduct
		60 days or more have elapsed less than 60 days have elapsed
	FOR I	LITIGANTS ALLEGING AN AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT CLAIM
	21.	I first disclosed my disability to my employer (or my employer first became aware of my
		disability on

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22.	The date on which I first asked my employer for reasonable accommodation of my disability is
23.	The reasonable accommodations for my disability (if any) that my employer provided to me are:
	
24.	The reasonable accommodation provided to me by my employer were/were not
	REFORE, I respectfully request this Court to grant me such relief as may be appropriate, ling injunctive orders, damages, costs and attorney's fees.
Dated	: 12.13.22 Elizabeth Bret
	Plaintiff's Signature

EEOC Form 5 (11/09) Charge Presented To: Agency(ies) Charge No(s): CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION 525-2022-00644 **EEOC** This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Privacy Act Statement and other information before completing this form. **FEPA** and EEOC **New York State Division Of Human Rights** State or local Agency, if any Name (indicate Mr., Ms., Mrs.) Home Phone Year of Birth Mrs. Elizabeth Breton (716) 901-3354 Street Address 3189 BROADWAY RD. LOT 8 **ALEXANDER, NY 14005** Named is the Employer, Labor Organization, Employment Agency, Apprenticeship Committee, or State or Local Government Agency That I Believe Discriminated Against Mc or Others. (If more than two, list under PARTICULARS below.) Name No. Employees, Members Phone No. Unknown Number Of **SAFRAN** (716) 683-5100 **Employees** Street Address 225 Erie St LANCASTER, NY 14086 Name No. Employees, Members Phone No. Street Address City, State and ZIP Code DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DATE(S) DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE Earliest Latest Religion 11/17/2021 12/22/2021

I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, if any. I will advise the agencies if I change my address or phone number and I will cooperate fully with them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their procedures.	NOTARY - When necessary for State and Local Agency Requirements I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. SIGNATURE OF COMPLANANT				
I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.					
Digitally Signed By: Mrs. Elizabeth Breton					
01/31/2022	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THES DATE (month, day, year)				
Charging Party Signature					

THE PARTICULARS ARE (If additional paper is needed, attach extra sheet(s)):

EEOC Form 5 (11/09)

CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION

This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Privacy Act Statement and other information before completing this form.

Charge Presented To:

Agency(ies) Charge No(s):

EEOC

525-2022-00644

FEPA

New York State Division Of Human Rights

and EEOC

State or local Agency, if any

I began working for Respondent as a permanent employee in or around October 2015. I work in Level C Assemble & Test. I was first notified by my employer that Respondent would be requiring all employees who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine to comply with mandatory testing and masking in or around November 2021. I sincerely hold a religious belief that conflicts with my employers vaccine, masking, and testing mandate mandates. I completed the paperwork my employer gave me to notify them of my religious beliefs and my need to be exempted from the vaccine, testing, and masking mandates on or around November 8, 2021, and again on December 10, 2021. On or around December 12, 2021, I asked Respondent to allow me to temporarily change my schedule to the second shift; I received a response from Respondent a few days later noting that I could change my shift, but I would still need to wear a mask in the workplace. By letter dated December 22, 2021, Respondent notified me that they could not accommodate my religious believes that exempt me to work onsite with a mask. Instead, Respondent placed me on unpaid leave and has refused to accommodate my religious beliefs. I believe my employer failed to accommodate me and discriminated against me because of my religion, in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, if any. I will advise the agencies if I change my address or phone number and I will cooperate fully with them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their procedures.

NOTARY - When necessary for State and Local Agency Requirements

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.

Digitally Signed By: Mrs. Elizabeth Breton 01/31/2022

I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT

(month, day, year)

SUBSCRIBED BEFORE THIS DATE SWORN TO ME AND

Charging Party Signature

Rebuttal

05/18/2022

The Covid-19 pandemic has definitely brought about some very difficult challenges for us all and my condolences go out to those who have experienced loss caused by it whether it be the closing of a family business, loss of a loved one, or for those like myself stripped of their livelihoods for having opposing views and beliefs about the situation.

Since notifying Respondent that new policies, procedures, and requirements they have implemented on their employees go against my sincerely-held individual beliefs by requesting a Religious Exemption and asking for reasonable accommodations they have treated me differently and violate my civil liberties. Their decision to keep me separated from the workforce with an unpaid leave of absence constitutes both discrimination and retaliation, not good faith. I have no name or label by which I use to describe my non-traditional religion, practice, or observance. While most traditional ones look to the sky for guidance from their God, mine lives within me. If I were to have notified them that I was of the Muslum faith, would they not permit me to wear my veil onsite? If I were a Jewish male, would they not permit me to wear my Yamaka onsite? If Respondent created a new policy, procedure that required their employees to gather together at the beginning of every shift for prayer, would they bully, intimidate, harass, and coerce an Atheist into participating?

The guidelines given by the CDC, WHO, and other public health officials are recommendations. Mandates are not laws, can you provide to me the penal code for the law I am in violation of by not wearing a mask? What is the penal code for the law I'm in violation of by not undergoing medically invasive procedures? Forcing people to self suffocate is a type of invasive procedure and requirement, my guide within tells me breathing oxygen is an essential element to sustain the life of this temple therefore will not deprive it of something so vital. If I get sick and die because I didn't follow the guidelines then no one else is to blame but me. What ever happened to getting a 2nd or even in some cases a 3rd opinion when it comes to seeking medical/healthcare advice anyway? Aren't those who have chosen to follow the guidelines and recommendations already protected? Why is the Respondent so persistent about whether or not I do? Do they have some doubts that the recommendations being provided work? If this asymptomatic thing Respondent keeps mentioning were the case, wouldn't I be experiencing signs of it in my personal life? Is the Respondent allowing their own personal beliefs about the situation to cloud their judgment, are they incompotent or intentionally deceiving? Why after 2 years of performing self health screens, staying home if I were sick and continuing to do so as I have been suddenly not accepted as a reasonable accommodation? When this became the case I suggested via appeal letter I submitted January 10th 2022 by asking for a modification to my schedule, working my area 2nd shift. I understand Respondent doesn't normally run that section at this time, but I had once modified my schedule for them by doing a split shift to run this area when they asked due to a high demand for product at the time, so why couldn't they have done the same for me? Nobody else would've been in the area, maybe a few people here and there.



Even the chances of running into someone through the hallways and bathroom would've been slim, there is an extremely lower amount of people in the building at that time. Told them we'd reevaluate the situation at a later date to determine my return to normal working hours. What undue hardships would the Respondent experience by continuing to allow a healthy, hardworking, reliable female, 44 years of age onsite breathing oxygen?

I was bullied, intimidated, harassed and coerced into complying, forced to go through the theatrics of it. I never covered my nose and would pull the mask down away from my mouth when talking. It wasn't until information of The Healthy American Website was brought to my attention that I started acquiring knowledge about the laws that have been put into place to protect the people of this country and the proper way to invoke my rights. I had passed this information onto the Respondent in hopes they would put forth the time and effort to learn along with me, not as a source to support my beliefs. They are my individual beliefs therefore do not need to be supported by facts. Number 15 of Exhibit C attached to the Respondents position statement asked to provide additional information I thought would be helpful, so I did. I feel it to be a reliable source, I have not spent a single penny through this site, they have educational videos available for free on their YouTube Channel. Is the Respondent going to try telling me next that they feel it's a source of misinformation? I have submitted supporting documentation, copies of state civil codes, NYS Human Rights Laws, information from OSHA and the EEOC, even the Constitution of NYS. Are any of you aware of NY penal code 121.11? It states that it is against the law to cause someone to stop breathing or to obstruct a person's ability to breath, so wouldn't that mean not only the Respondent but also State and Local Government Officials are in violation of this law with mandating masks? It does obstruct a person's ability to breath does it not? What about Chapter 6 of the NYS Laws, Article 7 § 79-I, Discrimination against person who refuses to perform certain act prohibited.

I appreciate the time the EEOC has put into addressing this matter and ask that they do not drop the case in its entirety, that they call the workplace and ask to speak to the following individuals as witnesses:

Harold Cummings, Michael Conway, Bridget Morey (Union VP), Robert Morrison (Union President), Angela Harris, Valorie Soleman, Christian Myers, Brian Krawczyk, Dana Burt, Issac Greene, Diana Haraburda, Kathy Hoffman, Michael Cash, Patrick Stitch, Clif Hornick, Darrius Wolowski, Larry Bitterman, Jeff Segal, Wendy Collis, Sara Hale, Anna Kaczynski, Ron Calvin, Kevin Higgins, Russ Wetter, James Poniewierski, Dick Fisher, Amber Walkowiak, Vilet Pajor, Mary Guzdek, Kim Cammarata, Mark Boudreau, Gregg Moore, Paul Moore, Bryan Myers, Brenden Guide.

Ask how reliable of an employee am I? Do any of them feel at risk by my presence onsite breathing oxygen? Has anyone else walked around onsite without wearing a mask, have they received the same disciplinary actions for not adhering to the company's policies? Why is it acceptable to be in work areas without it but unacceptable throughout other parts of the facility? Has 6 feet of distancing always been maintained in these areas where it's acceptable to be without it? Has any of them seen me onsite since the start of my unpaid leave of absence without



having my face covered? Has the Respondent ever made anyone else feel intimidated, bullied, or harassed? Was another person put on unpaid leave after seeking a medical exemption? If so, is the Respondent making examples out of us to stoke the fear in other employees from provoking their rights? I have passed The Healthy American Website and YouTube Channel onto a number of these people, apparently I am the only one who's actually put forth the time and effort to be educated, gaining the courage and confidence to stand up for my rights and fight for what I believe in. It saddens me this wasn't the same for others, that they remain too scared to do so. While a number of these people have wasted time just complaining I instead have learned of a way to actually do something about it. No one has the authority to determine the sincerity of anyone's beliefs. As I've stated in #8 of Exhibit C:

No right is more sacred than the right of every individual to the control of their own person, free from all restraints and interference of others.

Elizabeth Breton





U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION Buffalo Local Office

Olympic Towers 300 Pearl Street, Suite 450 Buffalo, NY 14202 Phone: (716) 431-5007 Fax: buffaxmain@eeoc.gov

Elizabeth Breton
3189 Broadway Rd. Lot 8
Alexander, New York 14005

Re:

Charge No.: 525-2022-00644

Breton v. Safran Group

Dear Ms. Breton:

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), has reviewed the above-referenced charge according to our charge prioritization procedures. These procedures, which are based on a reallocation of the Commission's staff resources, apply to all open charges in our inventory and call for us to focus our limited resources on those cases that are most likely to result in findings of violations of the laws we enforce.

In your charge, you alleged that you were denied a reasonable job accommodation for your sincerely held religious belief and discharged you because of your religion in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (Title VII).

Title VII requires an employer to provide a reasonable job accommodation to an individual with a sincerely held religious belief that would relieve employees of the burden of choosing between their jobs and their religious convictions. Under Title VII, however, the employer is not required to provide a requested accommodation if it would result in more than a minimal hardship to the employer. Courts have found more than a minimal hardship where the requested accommodation impairs workplace safety [e.g., spread of COVID -19], or cause co-workers to carry the accommodated employee's share of potentially hazardous or burdensome work. A requested accommodation that conflicts with another law would also be considered more than a minimal hardship for the employer. Under Title VII, the EFOC must also consider other factors including: the assessment of the public risk posed at a particular time; the availability of effective alternative means of infection control; and the number of employees who actually request accommodations.

Based upon the information submitted during the investigation, the Commission is unable to conclude that the evidence establishes a violation of Title VII. The Respondent has successfully illustrated that the granting of your requested accommodation would have been more than a minimal hardship under the circumstances. This does not certify that the Respondent is in compliance with statutes. No finding is made as to any other issue that might be construed as having been raised by this charge. The EEOC's processing of this charge has been concluded. Included with this letter is your Notice of Dismissal and Right to Sue. Following this dismissal, you may only pursue this matter by filing suit against the Respondent within ninety (90) days of receipt of this notice. Otherwise, your right to sue will be lost. If you have any questions, please contact Investigator Stephanie Littlehale at (716) 431-5014.

Sincerely,

Maureen C. Kielt Digitally signed by Maureen C. Kielt Date: 2022.09.22 18:19:57 -0400'

Maureen Kielt
Direct, Local Buffalo Office

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Buffalo Local Office 300 Pearl St, Suite 450 Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 431-5007 Website: www.ecoc.gov

DETERMINATION AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

(This Notice replaces EEOC FORMS 161 & 161-A)

Issued On: 09/22/2022

To: Mrs. Elizabeth Breton

3189 BROADWAY RD. LOT 8 ALEXANDER, NY 14005

Charge No: 525-2022-00644

EEOC Representative and email:

Stephanie Littlehale

Investigator

Stephanie.littlehale@eeoc.gov

DETERMINATION OF CHARGE

The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.

NOTICE OF YOUR RIGHT TO SUE

This is official notice from the EEOC of the dismissal of your charge and of your right to sue. If you choose to file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) on this charge under federal law in federal or state court, your lawsuit must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice. Receipt generally occurs on the date that you (or your representative) view this document. You should keep a record of the date you received this notice. Your right to sue based on this charge will be lost if you do not file a lawsuit in court within 90 days. (The time limit for filing a lawsuit based on a claim under state law may be different.)

If you file suit, based on this charge, please send a copy of your court complaint to this office.

On behalf of the Commission,

Maureen C. Kielt Digitally signed by Maureen C. Kielt Date: 2022.09.22 18:20:42 -04'00'

Marueen C. Kielt Director, Buffalo Local Office Ce: John Godwin Hodgson Russ LLP 140 PEARL ST STE 100 Buffalo, NY 14202

Tama J Gresco-Sauers Avox Systems Inc 225 Erie Street Lancaster, NY 14086

Please retain this notice for your records.

JS 44 (Rev. 04/21)

Case 1:22-cv-00977-JLS, Document 1 Filed 12/16/22 Page 15 of 17

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers at required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil d	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	CTIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	F THIS F	ORM.)						
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Elizabeth Breton				Safran						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff 4000500				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant						
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				NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number	er)		Attorneys (If Kno	wn)					
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Case 1:22-cv-00977-JLS Document 1 Filed 12/16/22 Page 17 of 17



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